

Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and Integrated Science Data Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. Tables of possible storm-induced rises at key locations on the Great Lakes are available on request. The Corps also publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," weekly, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. These publications can be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, or by calling (313) 226-6441. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication(s). The Internet address <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh> contains this information on the Internet.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology September 2011

The Lake Superior basin experienced below average precipitation in September while the Lake Michigan-Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario basins received above average precipitation. Over the past 12 months, Lake Superior received below average precipitation, while Lake Michigan-Huron experienced near average precipitation. Above average precipitation fell on the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario basins over the last 12 months. Precipitation over the entire Great Lakes basin was above average in September and above average over the past 12 months. In September, the net supply of water to the Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron basins was below average, while it was above average to the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario basins. The tables below list September precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of September monthly mean lake levels to long-term average (1918-2010) shows Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 12 and 15 inches, respectively, below average. Lake St. Clair was near average, while Lake Erie was 6 inches above average in the month of September. Lake Ontario was 1 inch above average in September. Boaters should be aware of hazards to navigation due to continued below average water levels on the upper lakes.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	September				12-Month Comparison			
	2011	Average (1900-2008)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2008)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	3.09	3.52	-0.43	88	29.08	30.51	-1.43	95
Michigan-Huron	3.70	3.45	0.25	107	32.83	32.44	0.39	101
Erie	6.00	3.20	2.80	188	46.16	35.40	10.76	130
Ontario	3.49	3.27	0.22	107	38.50	35.71	2.79	108
Great Lakes	3.82	3.41	0.41	112	34.35	32.64	1.71	105

LAKE	September WATER SUPPLIES ¹ (cfs)		September OUTFLOW ² (cfs)	
	2011	Average ⁴ (1900-1989)	2011	Average ³ (1900-1999)
Superior	-2,000	70,000	58,000	83,000
Michigan-Huron	-23,000	27,000	174,000	195,000
Erie	15,000	-17,000	205,000	204,000
Ontario	12,000	5,000	266,000	249,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

¹ Negative water supply denotes evaporation from lake exceeded runoff from local basin.

² Does not include diversions.

³ Niagara and St Lawrence rivers average outflows are based on period of record 1900-1989 and 1900-2005, respectively

⁴ Lakes Erie and Ontario average water supplies based on 1900-1989